Labour Market Notes

Full-time jobs drive slight increase in employment

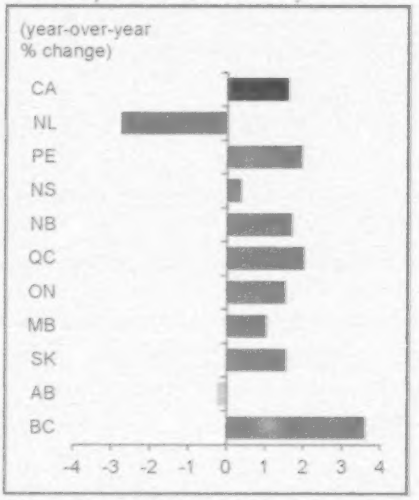
Alberta

- Employment near last year's level. On a year-over-year basis, employment was little changed declining by 5,300 or 0.2%, far less than the large declines experienced in 2016.
- Employment continues to recover. In February Alberta's employment increased by 1,300. Employment has increased in six of the last seven months, gaining 19,200 since the low in July 2016. The improvements have been led by gains in full-time positions, which have increased by 24,000 since July.
- Unemployment rate drops to 8.3%. The unemployment rate dipped by 0.5 percentage points to reach 8.3 per cent in February the lowest level since June 2016. The decrease was driving by a shrinking labour force (-14,100) as the participation rate fell from 72.9% to 72.5%.
- Gains in full-time and self-employment. All of the monthly job gains were in full-time positions (+19,300) which more than offset losses in part-time positions (-18,000). Monthly gains in the self-employment (+4,600) were large enough to negate declines in the public sector (-2,900) while private sector employment remained essentially flat.
- Goods sector improves. Employment in the goods-producing sector increased by 3,400 in February while service sector employment declined by 2,200. On a year-over-year basis, 39,100 fewer Albertans were employed in the goods sector compared to a 33,800 gain in the service sector.
- Earnings improve in December. Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) increased 1.0% in December to $1,130, the second consecutive monthly increase. Despite the year end improvement, AWE declined by 2.4% on average in 2016 and December's level is 1.5% lower than a year ago.

Canada

- Employment gains continue. Canadian employment increased by 15,300 in February, the thirteenth monthly increase in the last fifteen months. The monthly gain was led by British Columbia (+19,400) and Saskatchewan (+8,000). Year-over-year, Canadian employment has risen by 288,100, the largest 12-month gain since February 2013.
- Unemployment rate ticks down. The Canadian unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage point to 6.6% in February matching the lowest rate since November 2008.
- Canadian earnings jump. Canadian average weekly earnings (AWE) jumped 1.0% month-over-month in December to reach $971. Even with the improvement earnings are up a modest 1.2% from a year ago.

Employment Growth by Province, February 2017 vs. February 2016



Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta Labour Market Indicators

Indicator	Latest*
Employment	2,268,900
month-over-month change	1,300
year-over-year % change	-0.2%
Alberta Unemployment Rate (UR)	8.3%
Edmonton UR**	8.3%
Calgary UR**	9.4%
Participation Rate	72.5%
Average Weekly Earnings (AWE)	$1,129.62
year-over-year % change	-1.5%
Average Hourly Wage	$29.82
year-over-year % change	+0.1%
Job Vacancy Rate***	2%

Source: Statistics Canada

* All data is from the February 2017 Labour Force Survey, except AWE which is the December 2016 Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours, and the Job Vacancy Rate is for November 2016.

** This indicator is calculated as a three-month moving average and is seasonally adjusted.

*** This indicator is calculated as a three-month moving average and is not seasonally adjusted.

Alberta Government

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Treasury Board and Finance
Economics and Revenue Forecasting